

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Lardizzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Keithley, Newman, Wasson and Weir

Members Excused: Sarg, Lank and Newstadt

Staff Present: Davila, Peterson, Lopez, Whobrey and Studd

Introduction of Guest(s): Charles M. Dorman (VAMC Director), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), Linda Boone and David Stroud (Home of the Brave), Bill McMichael (News Journal), Michelle Lee (OMK - Operation Military Kids) and Francis Urick (DELVETS)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

The Chairman opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Mr. Dorman spoke about his career, his accomplishments and his future retirement. He spoke about future budget expectations, construction projects and answered questions.

Mrs. Evans announced that she has a newsletter coming out in May if the Commission has anything they would like to submit.

Mr. Stroud thanked the Commission for their recent donation of computers and announced they have a new website at <http://homeofthebravefdn.org/>. He reported that they received a donation of \$8,000 from the Milford Lions Club for the women's foundation and a donation of \$3,000 from the Korean War Veterans.

Ms. Lee provided an update for Operation Military Kids.

Mr. Peterson introduced their new Deputy Director, Ms. Studd, and provided an update for the Delaware Veterans Home. He announced that a hearing has been scheduled for April 26, 2012, at the DELDOT main office on Rt. 13, to determine if they can open the remaining beds for the Blue Wing. He also announced that they are planning a 5-year celebration to be held during the month of June 2012. The Navy WAVES NAT'L will be touring the Veterans Home on May 9, 2012.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT MARCH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY CARROLL, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Vice Chairman Lardizzone reported that they are interviewing for the Veterans Service Officer position. The Commission hired a new administrative specialist (casual/seasonal) for the front desk to assist the Veterans Service Officer; her name is Liz Dippel.

NORTHERN CEMETERY

Commissioner Harden reported that they held a Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting on April 11, 2012. She provided an update on current restoration projects at the Northern Cemetery.

HEALTH SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa commented that Mr. Dorman will be missed for his positive involvement with Delaware veterans' issues.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Vice Chairman Lardizzone and Mr. Davila spoke about a few proposed bills and discussion followed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Commissioner Weir spoke about the "The Big Missouri Barrel" event that was held in Georgetown.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Thompson reminded everyone that our ceremony will be held on the actual Memorial Day, Wednesday, May 30, 2012. Commissioner Carroll questioned a new Purple Heart recipient's name and discussion followed.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Corsa (VVA) – He was advised by the President of the VVA, that the organization has adopted the Home of the Brave as their charity for the year.

Evans (American Legion) – Their Department is in the process of electing and installing new officers.

Goss (KWVA) – They are working on their 4th Annual Golf Tournament scheduled for May 31, 2012. They are also selling business card ads for their program magazine for \$25; all proceeds will go to the Wounded Warrior program.

Harden (WAVES) – She spoke about their upcoming tour of the Veterans Home and the Patient Carnival to be held on May 5, 2012.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He will be attending their testimonial in Nashville, Tenn. They are taking donations for their "A Day at the Blue Rocks" event on May 22, 2012.

Newman (VFW) – Their next Council of Administration meeting will be held on May 14, 2012, 7:30 pm, at Legislative Hall.

Thompson (MCL) – Their State Convention will be held on April 21, 2012, in Seaford.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Thompson brought up a proposed Senate Bill to provide a military service bonus for those who served in the Persian Gulf.

MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO PROPOSE A SENATE BILL TO PROVIDE A MILITARY SERVICE BONUS FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Davila spoke about the marker realignment program and the repaving project at the Northern Cemetery. He also provided an update on the Virtual Cemetery project for both Cemeteries and discussion followed.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Delaware Veterans Home provided a demonstration and explanation of their new electronic medical records system.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MAY 15, 2012 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED